

What is claimed is:

1. An organic electroluminescent element comprising:

a substrate;

a first electrode formed above the substrate, at least a surface of the
5 first electrode having a multidimensionally meandering surface
shape, the surface being opposite to the other surface facing the
substrate;

an emissive layer including an organic electroluminescent material, the
emissive layer formed along the surface of the first electrode, the
10 surface of the first electrode having the multidimensionally
meandering surface shape, both surfaces of the emissive layer
having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, one
surface of the emissive layer facing the first electrode, the other
surface of the emissive layer being opposite to the one surface
15 facing the first electrode; and

a second electrode formed above the emissive layer.

2. The organic electroluminescent element according to claim 1,
wherein a thickness of the emissive layer is approximately uniform.

3. The organic electroluminescent element according to claim 1,
20 wherein:

the multidimensionally meandering surface of the first electrode has a
section including an indented shape, the multidimensionally
meandering surface being opposite to the other surface facing the

substrate, the section being in a direction perpendicular to the substrate; and

the emissive layer is formed approximately uniformly along the indented shape.

5 4. The organic electroluminescent element according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the second electrode has a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, the surface being on a side of the emissive layer.

5. The organic electroluminescent element according to claim 2, wherein:

10 in each of six pairs of cut sections of the organic electroluminescent element resulting from three ways of cutting thereof, an actual length of a meandering-shaped line of the emissive layer and a projected length of the meandering-shaped line meet the following Inequality 1, the three ways of cutting being perpendicular to the
15 substrate and crossing each other at an angle of 60 degrees and at an arbitrary intersection point on the substrate, the projected length of the meandering-shaped line being a length of the meandering-shaped line projected onto a plane parallel to the substrate and projected from a direction perpendicular to the
20 substrate:

$$\frac{\sum_{n=1}^6 (\text{actual length of meandering shaped line of } nth \text{ cut section}) / (\text{its projected length})}{6} \geq 2$$

... (1).

6. A method of fabricating an organic electroluminescent element comprising:

- 5 a first electrode forming step for forming a first electrode above a substrate, a surface of the first electrode having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape surface, the surface being opposite to the other surface facing the substrate;
- 10 an emissive layer forming step of forming an emissive layer by depositing an organic electroluminescent material approximately uniformly along the multidimensionally meandering surface of the first electrode, both surfaces of the emissive layer having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, one surface of the emissive layer facing the first electrode, the other surface of the emissive layer being opposite to the one surface facing the first electrode; and
- 15 a second electrode forming step of forming a second electrode above the emissive layer.

7. The method of fabricating an organic electroluminescent element according to claim 6, wherein in the emissive layer forming step, the organic
20 electroluminescent material is deposited approximately uniformly along the multidimensionally meandering surface of the first electrode by means of electrolytic deposition.

8. A display device comprising: a substrate; an electronic circuit formed on the substrate; and at least one organic electroluminescent element, light emission thereof being controlled via the electronic circuit, the organic electroluminescent element comprising:

5 a substrate;

a first electrode formed above the substrate, at least a surface of the first electrode having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, the surface being opposite to the other surface facing the substrate;

10 an emissive layer including an organic electroluminescent material, the emissive layer formed along the surface of the first electrode, the surface of the first electrode having the multidimensionally meandering surface shape, both surfaces of the emissive layer having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, one
15 surface of the emissive layer facing the first electrode, the other surface of the emissive layer being opposite to the one surface facing the first electrode; and

a second electrode formed above the emissive layer.

9. A lighting system comprising a substrate, a voltage application wire
20 formed on the substrate, and at least one organic electroluminescent element electrically connected with the voltage application wire, the organic electroluminescent element comprising:

a substrate;

a first electrode formed above the substrate, at least a surface of the

first electrode having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, the surface being opposite to the other surface facing the substrate;

an emissive layer including an organic electroluminescent material, the

5 emissive layer formed along the surface of the first electrode, the
surface of the first electrode having the multidimensionally
meandering surface shape, both surfaces of the emissive layer
having a multidimensionally meandering surface shape, one
surface of the emissive layer facing the first electrode, the other
10 surface of the emissive layer being opposite to the one surface
facing the first electrode; and

a second electrode formed above the emissive layer.